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Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 L-03 H-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 COME-00 EB-08
LAB-04 SIL-01 /069 W
----------141528Z 033895 /53
R 121247Z FEB 77
FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5616
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL DURBAN VIA POUCH
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS JOHANNESBURG 322

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, SF, US
SUBJ: FURTHER PRESS COVERAGE OF HECKETT DISPUTE

REF: JOHANNESBURG 271

1. THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE, ENTITLED "HECKETT DISPUTE: AMERICANS IN THE DARK", APPEARS IN THE FEBRUARY 11 EDITION OF THE WEEKLY FINANCIAL MAIL:

BEGIN TEXT:
"SOME AMERICAN COMPANIES DO NOT SEEM TO HAVE MUCH CLUE ABOUT WHAT THEIR SUBSIDIARIES IN SA ARE UP TO. HECKETT OF PENNSYLVANIA'S RELATION TO HECKETT SA OF PRETORIA (OF WHICH IT HOLDS 50 PERCENT, THE OTHER HALF BELONGING TO ISCOR) IS A CASE IN POINT.

"AS THE FINANCIAL MAIL (FM) REPORTED LAST WEEK, A ROW IS BREWING AT HECKETT'S WORKS NEAR DUNSWART OVER THE DISMISSAL OF THE WORKS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, PIET PHEKO. HECKETT SA
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MAINTAINS THAT PHEKO -- TO WHOM IT REFERS AS 'NO. 2961' --KICKED A 'BOSSBOY', AN ALLEGATION WHICH HE DENIES. HE MAINTAINS THAT HIS DISMISSAL AROSE OUT OF HIS ACTITIVITE AS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE METAL AND ALLIED WORKERS' UNION AND CHAIRMAN OF HECKETT'S WORKS COMMITTEE.

"PHEKO THIS WEEK MADE A SWORN STATEMENT TO HIS LAWYERS,

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AND IS TO ASK THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR TO INVESTIGATE BRING-
ING A PROSECUTION AGAINST HECKETT SA FOR VICTIMISATION.
"A SPOKESMAN FOR HECKETT USA TOLD THE FM'S WASHINGTON
CORRESPONDENT THAT ITS SA SUBSIDIARY 'FORMALLY RECOGNISED'
THE UNION. THIS CAME AS NEWS TO THE UNION, HOWEVER, WHICH TOLD
THE FM THAT ITS MEMBERSHIP AT HECKETT 'IS NOW OVER 80 PERCENT
OF THE WORK-FORCE. WE WERE SURPRISED TO LEARN THAT THE MANAGE-
MENT OF HECKETT HAD EXTENDED FORMAL RECOGNITION TO THE UNION.
TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE THIS HAS NOT OCCURRED.

"WE HAVE NOW WRITTEN TO THE SA MANAGEMENT OF HECKETT REQUESTING
A MEETING WITH THEM ON THE STRENGTH OF THE STATEMENT BY
HECKETT USA.'

"THE AMERICAN COMPANY'S STATEMENT ALSO APPARENTLY CAME AS NEWS
TO ITS SA SUBSIDIARY, WHICH TOLD THE FM THAT HECKETT USA HAD
MADE NO SUCH STATEMENT. THE FM'S WASHINGTON MAN, HOWEVER,
CONFIRMS HECKETT USA DID MAKE THE STATEMENT.

"HECKETT USA ALSO TOLD OUR WASHINGTON MAN THAT ITS SA SUB-
SIDIARY 'IS ONE OF THE COMPELLING AND MOVING FORCES FOR CON-
STRUCTIVE CHANGE' IN SA, AND THAT HECKETT SA WOULD BE ABLE TO
GIVE FURTHER DETAILS. A REQUEST BY THE FM FOR THESE DETAILS
SIMPLY DREW THE RESPONSE THAT HECKETT USA HAD MADE NO STATEMENT
TO THIS EFFECT AND THAT 'WE ARE THEREFORE UNABLE TO ANSWER
YOUR QUESTIONS'."

2. COMMENT: THE FINANCIAL MAIL'S LABOR AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT
JOHN KANE BERMAN IS THE ONLY MEMBER OF SOUTH AFRICA'S PRESS
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CORPS WHO HAS THUS FAR SHOWN ANY INTEREST IN THE ALLEGED
INDUSTRIAL DISPUTE AT HECKETT.
JOHNSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, DISPUTES, BUSINESS FIRMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770052-0056
Format: TEL
From: JOHANNESBURG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770247/aaaabpjg.tel
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Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 JOHANNESBURG 271
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3335506
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FURTHER PRESS COVERAGE OF HECKETT DISPUTE
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, SF, US, HECKETT
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ca0f6ec7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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